GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1333
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2005
DIGGING OF GAS IN MYANMAR
Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC Videsh Ltd. and GAIL India have completed the digging work in Gas Block-A1 of Myanmar as reported in the Rashtriya Sahara dated January 9, 2005;

(b) if so, whether GAIL has been awarded the status of first purchaser of the gas to be made available from the said block;

(c) if so, the estimated gas reserves in A-1 Block in million metric standard cubic metres per day;

(d) whether these companies are also engaged in digging and exploration work in other areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a): In Block A-1, Myanmar, M/s. Daewoo International of Korea is the main Operator carrying out drilling operations, and ONGC Videsh Ltd.(OVL), Gail (India) Ltd. (GAIL) as well as KOGAS of Korea are the other non-operating partners. Gas was discovered in the first well drilled in June, 2004. Further drilling of 8 wells is planned.

(b): GAIL have the first right of refusal to market OVL's share of gas in term of their MOU with OVL, and under their agreement with Daewoo, enjoy the status of the most preferred buyer for Daewoo's share of gas in case such natural gas is sold to India. Ministry of Energy, Myanmar have also acknowledged GAIL as the preferential buyer of natural gas from A-1 block.

(c): The estimated gas reserves of Shwe prospect in Block A-1 are of the order of 4-6 Trillion Cubic Feet(TCF) with an estimated production rate of around 22-28 Million Standard Cubic Meter per day (MMSCMD).

(d)&(e) : OVL currently have 14 overseas E&P Projects in 10 other countries including Russia, Vietnam, Iran, Iraq, Sudan, Libya, Syria, Australia, Ivory Coast and Qatar. OVL have also been awarded one block in Egypt. At present, GAIL's only E&P Project is in Myanmar.